THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): (a) There were 217 Central Public Enterprises as on 31-3-85 excluding Insurance Companies, Banking and Financial Institutions. The names of these enterprises are available in the Public Enterprises Survey 1984-85 placed on the Table of the House on 27-2-86.

(b) After setting off losses by the loss making enterprises the overall position shows a net profit of Rs. 445.92 crores in 1981-82, Rs. 613.51 crores in 1982-83, Rs. 240.14 crores in 1983-84 and Rs. 928.57 crores in 1984-85. The break-up of profit and loss of individual enterprises is available in the Public Enterprises Surveys of the respective years placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The reasons for losses differ from unit to unit. However, the major causes identified for losses include constraints in the availability of input like coal, power, transportation facilities; reduced demand in certain industries like Shipping and Ship Building; uneconomic prices; inherent sickness in the case of nationalised units taken over from the private sector; increase in input costs from time to time including wage revisions; outdated technology etc.

The steps taken by the Government to improve performance of these enterprises include provision of captive power facilities, wherever considered necessary; technology upgradation; modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment and provision of balancing facilities; improved maintenance practices; inventory control; product diversification and improvement in product mix; continuous monitoring and review of performance at various levels and encouraging Workers' Participation in Management.

(d) As on 28th February, 1986 twenty nine posts of Chief Executives were vacant.

**Sale of plot by DDA to a Bombay firm**

@*311. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of the 17th January, 1986 to the effect that an industrial plot was sold at a very cheap price by Delhi Development Authority to a commercial firm of Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made in the matter; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the news item mentions the Delhi Administration's Industries Department and not the Delhi Development Authority.

(b) Government has been actively encouraging units exporting agricultural items and providing necessary assistance. Government had, therefore, on an application by the party, written to Delhi Administration to assist them in setting up their unit for export of superior quality of Basmati rice particularly in consumer packs for sales in the sophisticated Western and Gulf Markets. The allotment of plot was made to the party by Delhi Administration on pre-determined rates in accordance with its policy.

(c) and (d) According to Delhi Administration, the allegations have been gone into but no irregularity was found.

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@Previously Starred Question 191, transferred from the 7th March, 1986.